

TRAFFIC COMMISSION
June 24, 2010 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic Commission was held in the City Council Chambers, 275 E. Olive Avenue, on the above date. Brian Malone, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Brian Malone, Vice Chair Ralph Herman
 Gregory Bragg David Justl
 Rebecca Granite-Johnson Paul McKenna, Jr.
 Robert Heins

Members Absent: Joe Terranova (Chair), Barry Gussow

Staff Present: Ken Johnson—Traffic Engineering, Public Works
 Rebekka Hosken—Administrative Analyst II, Public Works
 Rabie Rahmani—Principal Civil Engineer, Public Works
 Elaine Pease—License & Code Division
 Sandy George—Recording Secretary, Public Works

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. ROLL CALL

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic Commission)

A. Public Communication

Ms. Sandra Cusick, a resident, relayed her concerns regarding the traffic signal heavily used by Disney employees on Lincoln St, at Alameda Ave. She requested that the light be changed to prevent through traffic from Disney. She also commented that the stop sign on the southeast corner of Lincoln and Oak is not very visible to drivers who are speeding, a significant concern, since there are many children in the area. Mr. Johnson indicated this topic will be on next month's agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Martin Shatakhyan, General Manager of G&S Transit Management, Inc., delayed his comments until section VB.

B. Commission Member Communication

Mr. Herman suggested the Commission address older agenda items, in order to clear them off.

Mr. McKenna questioned the length of time and details of a long-standing film permit issued near the Lincoln area, which might impact nearby school parking.

Mr. Bragg inquired as to the status of the news rack ordinance with City Council.

Mr. Malone expressed his desire to find when and why the language was inserted into the City's code to restrict newsracks near red curb.

C. Staff Communication

Mr. Johnson pointed out the handouts he gave re: Police Department citation statistics, to discuss in the next meeting. He also distributed smoking ban information from License and Code to be discussed later in the meeting, and indicated City Council wants to have another traffic study session.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McKenna moved to approve the April 22, 2010 meeting minutes for discussion, and Mr. Heins seconded. Mr. Justl requested his comments regarding "lead left-turn functionality" be changed for clarification, as shown on his typed corrections handed out to the commission. The minutes were approved unanimously, except for two abstentions: Ms. Granite-Johnson and Mr. Herman, who had not attended last month's meeting.

Mr. Johnson reminded the Commission that the City Attorney has indicated the minutes of the committee should be "action minutes", meaning they are generally a summary of items discussed and discussion participants.

V. REPORTS

A. Taxi Cab Report – Monthly Report on Taxi Activities (Pease)

Ms. Pease reported there were no Taxicab complaints for the past month. License and Code staff is currently in the process of licensing Taxicab drivers. Additional information on the City's smoking restrictions was added to airport taxicab trip records.

Mr. Shatakhyan discussed the taxicab trip records his company gives to passengers to relay information about the City's no-smoking policy.

Victor Kozian, PR manager for United Taxi, indicated his company had not seen the aforementioned taxicab trip records.

Mr. Shatakhyan, Mr. Kozian, Mr. Justl, Mr. Malone, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Heins, and Mr. Bragg participated in the discussion.

B. Request for Taxi Stands (Johnson)

Mr. Johnson presented several potential locations citywide that could be used as specified taxi waiting areas ("taxi stands"), in order to eliminate taxis congregating on residential streets where this would become a problem for residents. This was done in response to a letter from Mr. Shatakhyan requesting taxi stands at the following locations:

1. East side of Oak Street at Pass Avenue to serve the Amarano Hotel (3 spaces),

2. South side of Parkside Avenue, east of Bob Hope Drive (2 spaces),
3. North side of Warner Boulevard near California Street (3 spaces),
4. West side of Olive Avenue near Toluca Lake Avenue (3 spaces), and
5. South side of Alameda Avenue near Burbank Center (3 spaces).

Upon review, staff recommends approval of two taxi parking spaces in each of the above appropriate locations, with some slight modifications to location.

Mr. McKenna made a motion to accept the recommendations by staff of allotting the above locations 2 spaces each to be used as taxi stands, with Ms. Granite-Johnson seconding the motions. Upon further discussion, Mr. McKenna amended his motion to vote on each location individually, with Ms. Granite-Johnson seconding this amended motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. McKenna moved to approve for discussion the first of the proposed locations, with Mr. Heins seconding the motion.

After discussion, Mr. McKenna moved to table approval of the first location until a future date. Mr. Herman seconded the motion, with passed unanimously.

All members of the Commission voted in favor of the second location, except for Mr. Justl. All members of the Commission voted in favor of the third location, except for Mr. Justl.

Mr. McKenna moved to approve the fourth proposed location, with Mr. Heins seconding the motion. After discussion, it was decided to table this location, until a future date, so further analysis can be done. Mr. McKenna and Mr. Heins withdrew their motion to approve this location, after which, Mr. McKenna moved to table this location, with Mr. Heins seconding. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve for discussion the fifth of the proposed locations, with Mr. Bragg seconding. Both Mr. McKenna and Mr. Bragg agreed to amend their motion to specify the location to the 3900 block of Alameda (the south side), west of Kenwood. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Malone, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Herman, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Granite-Johnson, Mr. Justl, Mr. Heins, Mr. Shatakhyan, Mr. Kozian, and Mr. Rahmani participated in the discussion.

C. Selection of 2010 Chair and Vice-chair (Johnson)

Mr. McKenna nominated Mr. Malone for Chair, seconded by Mr. Herman. The Commission voted unanimously for Mr. Malone to chair the Commission beginning July, 2010, through July, 2011.

Mr. Bragg nominated Mr. McKenna for Vice-chair of the Commission, seconded by Ms. Granite-Johnson. Mr. Malone nominated Mr. Herman, seconded by Mr. Justl. After a vote, Mr. McKenna was chosen as Commission Vice-chair, with a 4-3 vote.

Mr. Malone, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Herman, Mr. Justl, Mr. Bragg, Ms. Granite-Johnson participated in the discussion.

D. Selection of School Safety Subcommittee members (Johnson)

Mr. McKenna and Mr. Bragg volunteered to be on the School Safety Subcommittee, and Mr. Johnson mentioned Mr. Gussow (not at today's meeting) expressed the desire to be on the Subcommittee, as well.

Ms. Granite-Johnson moved to have Mr. Bragg, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Gussow, and Mr. Heins (as an advisor) be on the subcommittee, with Mr. Malone seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Prior to next Traffic Commission meeting, the Subcommittee will meet under the coordination of Ken Johnson, assemble together, set meeting schedule, prioritize items, and bring back all report information to the July 22nd meeting. This was directed and agreed to by the Chair and Ken Johnson.

Mr. Malone, Mr. Heins, Mr. Herman, Mr. Justl, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Granite-Johnson, and Mr. Bragg participated in the discussion.

E. Edison Elementary School Parking Issues (Johnson)

Mr. Johnson suggested the information in this report be taken to the School Safety Subcommittee for analysis, at this time, and to be brought back by the Subcommittee and Mr. Johnson to the July 22nd Traffic Commission regular meeting.

Mr. Malone, Mr. Justl, and Mr. McKenna participated in the discussion.

F. Traffic Issues at Burroughs High School (Johnson)

After discussion, it was decided this issue would be tabled until the next meeting and agendized by Mr. Johnson for the next meeting.

G. Verdugo Avenue Traffic Update (Johnson)

Mr. Johnson indicated the preliminary data collected on this project was very preliminary, so additional data and study is required, however, it does appear that the bike lane is getting well used. More analysis is needed to make a final determination of success. Mr. Johnson said he would bring back more data at a later meeting.

Mr. Malone, Mr. Herman, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Granite-Johnson, and Mr. Justl participated in the discussion.

H. LNCV Update (Johnson)

A general discussion took place on the LNCV ordinance. Mr. Malone requested that staff bring back additional information to the Commission next meeting, and Mr. Johnson to bring back priority items, educational material schedule, and computer billing procedure for the next regular meeting.

Mr. Malone and Mr. Herman participated in the discussion.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

For August 2010:

- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (February 2009)
- Status of Truck Routes (June 2009)
- LNCV Implementation Progress (March 2010)
- More Detail/Timeline on Status of Traffic Projects (January 2010)
- Taxi Cab Report – Monthly Report on Taxi Activities

For September 2010:

- Test Involving Having a Left Turn Light Only If 3 or More Vehicles are Waiting for a Left Turn (August 2009)—Johnson
- Taxi Cab Report – Monthly Report on Taxi Activities

Future Agendas:

- Discussion of Parking in Magnolia Park (March 2009)
- Commercial Vehicle Parking Restrictions (July 2008)
- News Rack Location Criteria and Number Allowed (March 2010)
- Progress of the Olive Ave. Streetscape Project (March 2010)—Terranova
- Traffic Calming (March 2008)

For School Safety Subcommittee:

- Parking Around Schools at Dismissal Time on Street Sweeper Day (June 2009)
- Bicycle Helmet Education (September 2009)—McKenna

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Malone expressed thanks to Mr. Terranova for serving as Commission Chair, and Mr. Dennis Hooper, former Commission member, for serving last term. He indicated he would like the idea of having a “roving liaison” from the Traffic Commission meet with City Council added to a future agenda.

Mr. McKenna moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54pm, seconded by Mr. Heins. The motion passed unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22th, 2010, at 4:00pm in the in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer
KJ: smg